



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/588,448	05/04/2007	Thomas P. Fechter	124588.00067	8741
26710 7590 02/13/2009 QUARLES & BRADY LLP 411 E. WISCONSIN AVENUE SUITE 2040 MILWAUKEE, WI 53202-4497				
EXAMINER				
GRANT, ALVIN J				
ART UNIT		PAPER NUMBER		
3723				
MAIL DATE		DELIVERY MODE		
02/13/2009		PAPER		

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/588,448

Applicant(s)

FECHTER ET AL.

Examiner

ALVIN J. GRANT

Art Unit

3723

Period for Reply -- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 29 October 2008.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,5 and 7-11 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,5 and 7-11 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-8508)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- 6) ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. **Claims 1, 4, 5 and 7-11** are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Landrum 5,617,771 in view of Bickford 4,864,903.

Landrum discloses a hydraulic torque wrench fastener tightening system having the claimed features that include: a double acting cylinder that turns a socket of the wrench upon an advance of the cylinder and ratchets backward over the socket without turning the socket upon a retract of the cylinder in which, in response to an operator actuating an advance actuator and holding it actuated, the system alternately: (a) applies a pressure to the cylinder to advance the cylinder until a programmable set pressure is reached; and (b) applies a pressure to the cylinder: to retract the cylinder; such that when a desired torque of the fastener is reached the alternation cycle between processes (a) applying a pressure to the cylinder to advance the cylinder and (b) applying a pressure to the cylinder to retract the cylinder is reduced in duration and thereby indicates to the operator that the fastener has reached the desired torque; the process of (b) applying a pressure to the cylinder to retract the cylinder is terminated when a set pressure is reached (col. 3, line 44-col. 5, line 18); and the indication to the operator that the fastener has reached the desired torque is a visual indication (col. 5,

lines 60-64); and after the fastener has reached the desired torque the system shuts off a motor that drives a pump of the system. Landrum does not specifically disclose the fastener reaching the desired torque with an audible indication. Bickford discloses a hydraulic powered wrench in which the desired torque is indicated by an audible transmission so as to ensure that the workpiece is torqued to the prescribed limit. It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have made the apparatus of Landrum to have the desired torque indicated by an audible transmission as taught by Bickford so as to ensure that the workpiece is torqued to the prescribed limit.

Response to Arguments

3. Applicant's arguments filed 6/13/08 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's arguments that US Patent 5,617,771 (to Lundrum) requires different method steps *by the operator* to operate the tool from that claimed, Landrum's apparatus comprises the elements claimed by Applicant. Since the claims are apparatus claims and not method claims applicant's arguments, in this regard, are not convincing.

In response to applicant's arguments that Landrum's apparatus does not continue to work once the desired torque is reached and that the operator has to conduct the finished mode manually. Besides the fact that these are functional characteristics, the

pump also allows the operator to operate the pump manually or to set the pump for automatic operation (col. 3, lines 1-5).

4. Applicant's arguments with respect to US Patent 4,794,826 reference (to Frank) have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to ALVIN J. GRANT whose telephone number is (571)272-4484. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00-4:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph J. Hail can be reached on (571) 272-4485. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Alvin J Grant/
Examiner, Art Unit 3723

